

Imantodes chocoensis Torres-Carvajal, Yáñez-Muñoz, Quirola, Smith, and Almendáriz, 2012 (Squamata: Dipsadidae): First records from Colombia

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ABSTRACT: The occurrence of *Imantodes chocoensis* in Colombia is noted for the first time based on two new records from the lowlands of Valle del Cauca, on the Colombian Pacific coast, which extends the species range approximately 313 km NE (airline) from Carchi and Esmeralda, Ecuador.

Imanodes chocoensis inhabits the Pacific coast rainforest enclaves of Chocó, located in northern Ecuador at elevations of 115–260 m, in the provinces of Carchi and Esmeralda (Figure 1). However, it has been suggested that this species may also be present in some localities outside of Ecuador, in the Chocó biogeographic region of Colombia. This snake can be distinguished from its known congeners because of the absence of a loreal scale and the presence of small dark dorsal spots that include only one or two vertebral scales and do not extend laterally to the ventrals (Torres-Carvajal *et al.* 2012).

Here we provide data for the extension of the geographic range of *Imantodes chocoensis* to lowland sites in the Chocó biogeographic region in Valle del Cauca, Colombia. During research in the Amphibian and Reptile Collection in Universidad del Valle (UV-C), a specimen (UVC-7249) was found, collected by Y. A. Solarte at Quebrada El Caimancito, between the Corregimiento (smallest administrative unit) of Silva and San Vicente, Buenaventura municipality, Valle del Cauca department, Colombia (3°28'24.85"N, 77°11'9.82"W; 75 m). This specimen was originally identified as *Imantodes* sp., probably due to the absence of the loreal scale (common to the species of the genus *Imantodes*), and the pattern of dorsal spots, different from the *Imantodes* species from that area (Figure 2). Because of scale counts (Table 1) and dorsal spot pattern, we determined that the specimen actually corresponds to *I. chocoensis*.

In September 2011 a second individual of *Imantodes chocoensis* (Figure 3) was observed in the Pianguita-Bazán Corregimiento, Buenaventura municipality, Valle del Cauca, Colombia (3°50'32.55" N, 77°11'54.60" W; 25 m). The individual was seen moving among tree branches at a height of 4 m at 20:30 h. The pattern of coloration differs from that presented by the paratypes in that it has: 1) yellowish gold (copper) iris; 2) yellow-orange back, more intense in the paravertebral region (where the dorsal spots are located); 3) whitish cream belly. The color pattern described here corresponds to that found in specimens along the Pacific coast.

As reported by Torres-Carvajal *et al.* (2012) for Ecuador, the Colombian specimens of *Imantodes chocoensis* were

found in sympatry with two congeners (*I. cenchoa* and *I. inornatus*) (Castro Herrera, 1998; unpublished data), as well as with other species of arboreal colubrids such as *Chironius grandisquamis* (Peters, 1869), *Oxybelis aeneus* (Wagler, 1824), *O. brevirostris* (Cope, 1861), *Oxyrhopus petolarius* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Siphlophis compressus* (Daudin, 1803).

This new finding increases the geographic distribution of *Imantodes chocoensis* more than 313 km NE from the nearest specimens in Ecuador and also allows an

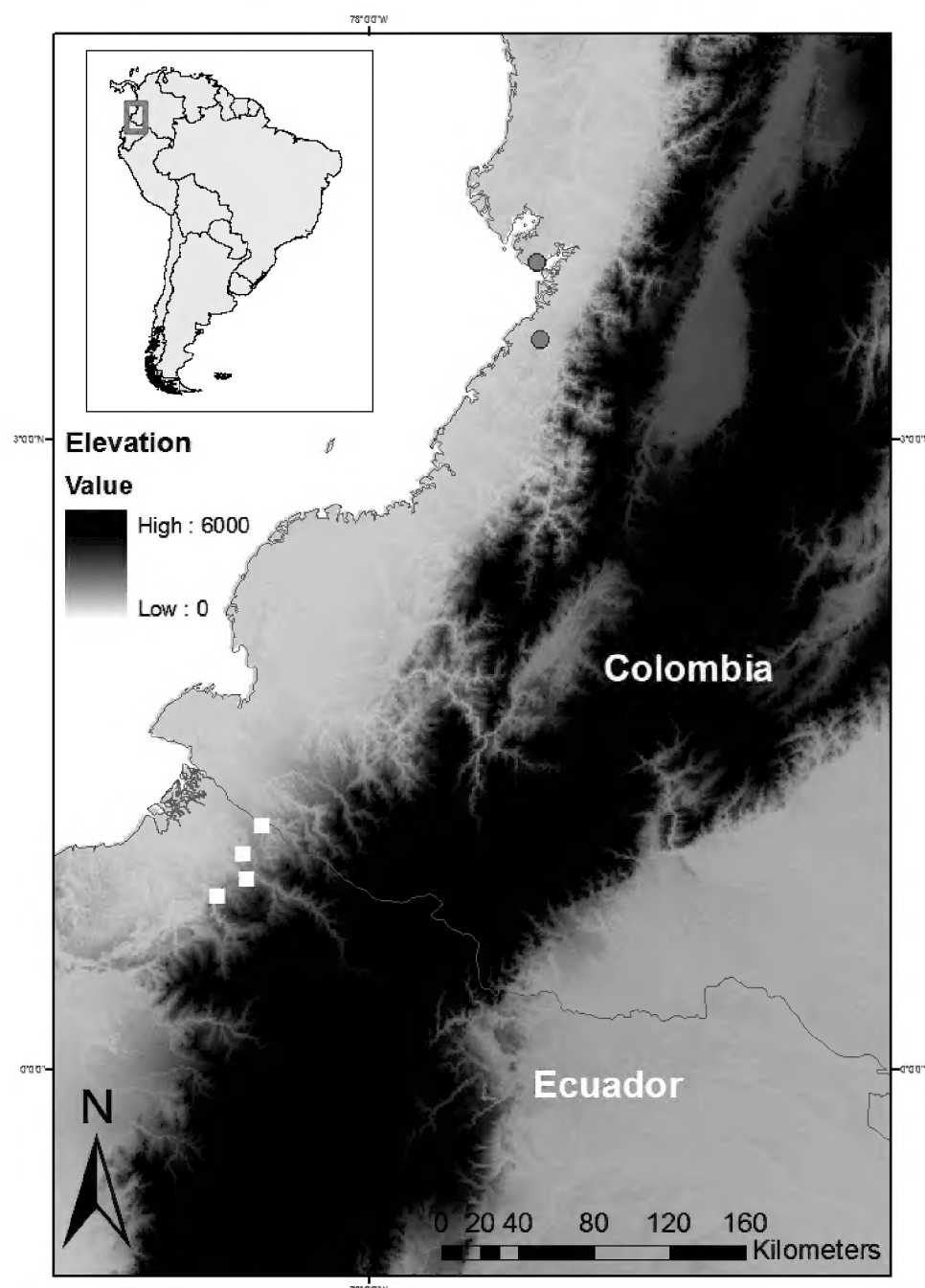


FIGURE 1. Distribution map of *Imantodes chocoensis*. The white square represents the known distribution of *I. chocoensis* in Ecuador; red circles show the new localities from Colombia.

expansion of the species’ elevational range, from 25 to 260 m. The presence of *I. chocoensis*, in Colombia is mainly attributed to the Chocó biogeographic region being a corridor of tropical rainforest, where the climatological, physiographic and landscape composition show little variation.

TABLE 1. Scale count and measurements of the individual UVC-7249, *Imantodes chocoensis*.

CHARACTERISTICS	<i>Imantodes chocoensis</i> (UV-C 7249)
Dorsal Scale Rows	17-17-17
Ventrals	238
Subcaudals	158
Anal	1
Anterior temporals	1
Posterior temporals	2
Loreals	0
Preoculars	1
Postoculars	3
Supralabials	9
Infralabials	13
Geniales	2
Head length/width	1.65
Tail length/Total length	0.29
Maximum SVL (cm)	35.25
Maximum Total length (cm)	49.80

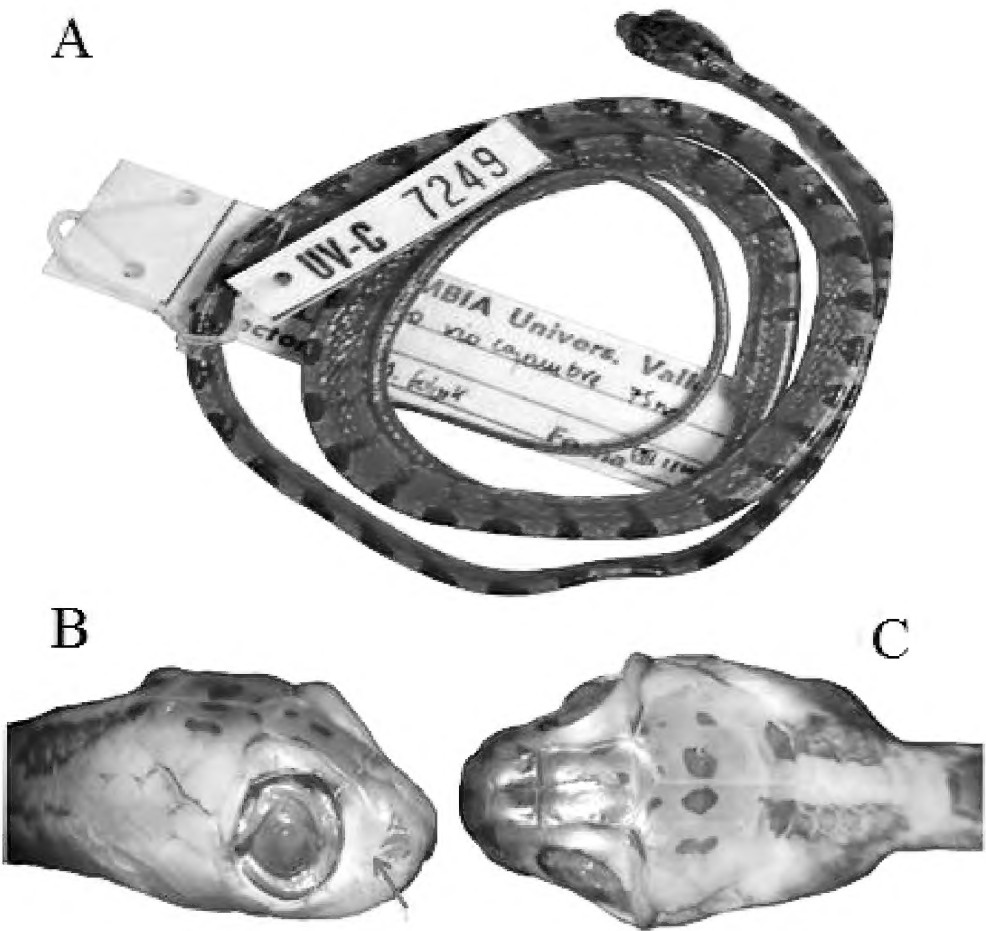


FIGURE 2. Specimen from La Quebrada El Caimancito, Cajambre River, Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca, 3°28'24.85" N, 77°11'9.82" W, 75 m (UVC-7249): A) pattern of dorsal spots; B) lateral view of head, indicating the absence of the loreal scale, C) dorsal view of head.



FIGURE 3. Uncollected specimen of *Imantodes chocoensis* from Pianguita-Bazán, Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca 3°50'32.55" N, 77°11'54.60" W, 25 m. Photo by: Andres F. Vinasco-Mondragon.

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